

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on June 23, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed October 12, 2006.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 18, 22, 23, 26, 27, 31, 34, and 39 are amended. Claim 40 is added. As a result, claims 1-40 are now pending in this application.

Please DO NOT enter Applicant's response dated September 25, 2006.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 13, 16-18, 21, 34 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Mizoguchi et al. (U.S. 5,801,521, hereinafter referred to as Mizoguchi).

Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reasons presented below.

Independent claim 13 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 13 is not anticipated by Mizoguchi because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi everything recited in claim 13. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi a teaching or fair suggestion of “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 13. Dependent claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 13 and recite the things of claim 13. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 16 and 17 are also not anticipated by Mizoguchi for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 13, plus the additional things recited in claims 16 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 16 and 17.

Independent claim 18 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto

that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 18 is not anticipated by Mizoguchi because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi everything recited in claim 18. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi a teaching or fair suggestion of “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 18. Dependent claim 21 depends from claim 18 and recites the things of claim 18. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 21 is also not anticipated by Mizoguchi for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 18, plus the additional things recited in claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 21.

Independent claim 34 recites, among other things, “depositing the first conductive pattern includes depositing outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein depositing the second conductive pattern includes depositing outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 34 is not anticipated by Mizoguchi because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi everything recited in claim 34. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi a teaching or fair suggestion of “depositing the first conductive pattern includes depositing outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein depositing the second conductive pattern includes depositing outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 34.

Independent claim 39 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of

additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 39 is not anticipated by Mizoguchi because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi everything recited in claim 39. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi a teaching or fair suggestion of “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 39.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reasons presented below.

Objection to Official Notice

The Office Action cites a single document (Mizoguchi) to reject claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 of the present application under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the reason that some of the specific features in these claims, although not taught by the single document, are "obvious matters of design choice". Applicant assumes that the Examiner is taking Official Notice in rejecting these claims because the Office Action offers no documents to support the rejection of the specific features in these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the taking of Official Notice and, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2144.03, Applicant requests documents or an affidavit to support the rejection. Moreover, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi a motivation to modify the teaching of Mizoguchi as proposed in the Office Action. In the absence of documents or an affidavit to support the rejection of claims 14, 15, 19, and 20, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of these claims.

Notwithstanding the objection to the taking of Official Notice above, Applicant believes that claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 are patentable over Mizoguchi for the reasons presented below.

Claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 depend from their independent claims 13 and 18. Thus, Applicant also believes that 14, 15, 19, and 20 are patentable over Mizoguchi for at least the

reasons presented above regarding claims 13 and 18. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 14, 15, 19, and 20.

Claims 22-30 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi et al. in view of Walsh (U.S. 6,233,834).

Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reasons presented below.

Independent claim 22 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 22 is patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh everything recited in claim 22. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh, whether considered individually or in combination, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 22.

Independent claim 23 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 23 is patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh everything recited in claim 23. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh, whether considered individually or in combination, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and

allowance of claim 23. Dependent claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 23 and recite the things of claim 23. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 24 and 25 are also patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 23, plus the additional things recited in claims 24 and 25. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 24 and 25.

Independent claim 26 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 26 is patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh everything recited in claim 26. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh, whether considered individually or in combination, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 26.

Independent claim 27 recites, among other things, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Applicant believes that claim 27 is patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh because Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh everything recited in claim 27. For example, Applicant cannot find in Mizoguchi and Walsh, whether considered individually or in combination, “forming the first conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the first conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments, and wherein forming the second conductive pattern includes forming outermost segments of the second conductive pattern with a region interior thereto that is free of additional segments”. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and

allowance of claim 27. Dependent claims 28-30 depend from claim 27 and recite the things of claim 27. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 28-30 are also patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 27, plus the additional things recited in claims 28-30. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 28-30.

Dependent claims 35-38 depend from claim 34 and recite the things of claim 34. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 35-38 are patentable over Mizoguchi and Walsh for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 34, plus the additional things recited in claims 35-38. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 35-38.

New Claim

New claim 40 depends from claim 39. As presented above, Applicant believes that claim 39 is patentable over the cited art. Thus, Applicant also believes that claim 40 is patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant requests consideration and allowance of claim 40.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 17 October 2006

By 

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17 day of October 2006.


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